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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage University and Partners win \$50,000 State Grant to Plan Health Improvements for Yakima County

Toppenish, WA – Heritage University’s Center for a New Washington (CNW) and its partners have been awarded a \$50,000 community health planning grant from the Washington State Health Care Authority to help Yakima County residents achieve better health, better care, and lower costs.

The CNW and partners including Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, the Yakima Health District, Pacific Northwest University of Health and Science, and others, formed the Yakima County Accountable Community of Health. The group’s partners will work to effectively improve health care and make it easily accessible for residents, leading to a healthier community. Members began meeting in February of this year to study community needs and resources.

Kay Bassett, the director of CNW, says the grant will allow the group to begin community-based research into studying the health needs of Yakima County, and to form an organization which will implement a plan of action.

“We have certain unique health challenges in Yakima County, and we know there are many issues to address,” says Bassett. This grant puts us in a position to find out how urgent the needs are, and to identify the best practices for meeting those needs.”

The Yakima County Accountable Community of Health was one of ten communities, including government and tribal entities, which received up to \$50,000 each from the Washington State Health Care Authority, for aid in planning for collaborative, multi-sector work around mutual community and state health transformation priorities.

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Heritage University is a non-profit, independent, regionally accredited institution of higher education offering undergraduate and graduate education across the state of Washington.

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